(b) if so, what are the terms and conditions of the agreement in this connection; and

(c) to what extent this would solve the energy problem in the country?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI KALYAN SINGH KALVI): (a) and (b) In response to the offer of Nepal to supply power to India from some hydel projects to be set up in Nepal, the Government has conveyed its agreement, in principle, to absorb such power subject to an agreement on tariff and operational aspects.

(c) Since the quantum of power and when it would be availble, are not yet known, no firm assessment of the extent to which it would solve the energy problem has been made.

Assessment of liability against M/s. Hoechst

120. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 155 given in the Rajya Sabha on 7th January, 1991 and state:

(a) on what basis the Special Team assessed the liability of M/s. Hoechst at Rs. 458 lakhs upto 1983;

(b) whether it is a fact that this liability was in respect of bulk drug only and not in respect of formulations;

(c) what was the Supreme Court judgement on this issue;

(d) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court judgement was not implemented; and

(e) if so, what steps have been taken to fix responsibility for under assessing the liability of this company?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): (a) to (d) While the judgement of the Supreme Court and the relevant provisions of the DPCO, 1979 envisaged the determination of liability in respect of formulations also, and the recovery thereof as per the undertaking given by the Company, the Special Team's calculations covered the five bulk drugs only. In view, however, of receipt of complaints that the liabilities had not been properly assesed, it was decided, last year, to review the Special Team's findings and the developments thereafter. As a result of that review a tentative liability of Rs. 24.91 crores has since been assessed against M/s. Hoechst for the period upto 31.12.83 and communicated to the company. The company have, however, filed a Writ Petition in the Bombay High Court and the matter is, therefore, subjudice.

(e) The question of taking any action against the Special Team would arise only after the liabilities are finally determined, for the entire period.

Decontrol of Molasses

@531. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:
SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to decontrol molasses;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, the reasons therefor?

@Previously Unstarred Question 241, transferred from 26th February, 1991.